(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Maintenance and repair of National Highways in West Bengal

1093. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of funds for maintenance and repair of National Highway in West Bengal, as proposed by the State Government for years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the funds released by Government against the above proposals; and

(c) whether any contingency funds are available for strengthening/repairing of the distressed streches of National Highways in West Bengal, during floods and other calamities?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Funds for maintenance and repairs of National Highways demanded by the State Govt. of West Bengal and funds allocated by the Government for the last three years is indicated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Demand	Allotment
1993-94	3227.80	1760.45
1994-95	2901.54	1744.02
1995-96	3266.20	1731.33

(c) Out of total allocation available for the maintenance and repair of National Highways in a particular year, funds are also provided for the repair of flood damage or other special repairs needed as per condition of National Highways in various States, including the State of West Bengal.

Taking over of closed Textile Units by Labour Cooperatives

1094. SMT. URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labour cooperatives which have made demand to take over closed viable textile units in Gujarat and other States of the country;

(b) the number of the cooperatives which have been given permission to start production;

(c) the number of cooperatives which have started production in those units; and

(d) the amount sanctioned to support the labour cooperatives and released for the individual projects?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) Matter comes under the purview of concerned State Governments.

Improving Indo-Sri Lankan relations

1095. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister visited India in the month of June and sought India's help and aid to rebuilt Jaffna;

(b) if so, the main subjects discussed;

(c) whether the relations between the two countries has been further improved;

(d) whether all the outstanding disputes with Sri Lanka have been discussed and both the countries have agreed to help each other and improve the relations; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister paid a two day goodwill visit to India on June 20-21, 1996. He conveyed a briefing on the relief and rehabilitation programme being carried out by the Sri Lankan Government in the Jaffna peninsula and sought India's assistance and support for the same. Earlier an Action Plan prepared by the Sri Lankan government for relief and resettlement and rehabilitation programme for the Jaffna peninsula which had interalia, called for international assistance was handed over to selected countries including India.

(b) to (e) The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister was informed that India would be prepared to extend all feasible assistance for relief and rehabilitation of the refugees.